We Claim:

1.   (Currently Amended) A device for ~~providing project data and/or project planning data of~~converting data from a proprietary format in an automation project or component,~~characterized~~ to a format defined by a standardized meta format, comprising a conversion apparatus, and further comprising means for converting the data with a defined format into project data and/or project planning data with a proprietary format ~~into data with a format which is defined by a standardized meta language, in particular XML,~~ and ~~for converting back data with a format which is defined by a standardized meta language, in particular XML, into project data and/or project planning data with a proprietary format and~~means for providing the data with a defined format for further processing.

2.   (Currently Amended)   The device ~~as claimed in~~according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that it contains~~further comprising an export/import apparatus ~~for exporting/importing data from the device and into it, respectively~~.

3.   (Currently Amended)   The device ~~as claimed in one of claims 1 or 2, characterized in that~~according to claim 2, wherein the conversion device and the export/import apparatus are embodied ~~as one~~in a single apparatus.

4.   (Currently Amended)   The device ~~as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized by~~according to claim 1, further comprising a data storage apparatus for storing the data with a defined format.

5. (Currently Amended) An engineering system ~~having~~comprising ~~a~~the device ~~as claimed in one of claims 1~~according to ~~4.~~claim 1.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for providing project data and/or project planning data ~~of~~from an automation project or component, ~~characterized in that~~comprising converting the project data and/or project planning data ~~with~~having a proprietary format ~~is converted~~ into data with a format which is defined by a standardized meta language~~, in particular XML,~~ and which is made available for further processing.

7. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in~~according to claim 6, ~~characterized~~ further comprising reading-in ~~that~~and processing the data with a defined format ~~is read in and processed~~ by at least one software program product or tool.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for providing project data and/or project planning data ~~of~~from an automation project or component, ~~characterized in that at least one computer program product or tool generates project data and/or project planning data or such data is generated~~comprising generating by means of ~~said~~at least one computer program product or tool data in a proprietary format, and making this data~~ is made~~ available for further processing in a format which is defined by a standardized meta language~~, in particular XML~~.

9. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in one of~~according to claims 6 ~~to~~and 8, ~~characterized in that~~further comprising storing data ~~with~~having a defined format ~~is stored~~ in a data storage apparatus.

10. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in one of claims 7 to 9, characterized in that~~according to claim 7, wherein the ~~at least one~~ software program product or tool is selected from a version administration tool, a CAD, CAM, CAE program, a cam disk tool, a productivity program or a project design tool.

11. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in one of claims 7 to 10, characterized in that~~according to claim 7, further comprising exporting data with a defined format ~~is exported~~ from the ~~at least one~~ software program product,~~ in particular~~ or tool into a device ~~as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5.~~according to claim 1.

12. (Currently Amended) The method ~~as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that~~according to claim 11, further comprising converting the data with a defined format ~~is converted~~ into project data and/or project planning data ~~with~~having a proprietary format.